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THE WHITE HOUSE

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February 28, 1980

MEMORANDUM FOR:

THE SECRETARY OF STATE
THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
CHAIRMAN, JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF
THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

SUBJECT: National Deception Operations (C)

REFERENCE: Assistant to the President for National
Security Affairs memorandum dated
January 12, 1977, subject: Double
Agent and Deception Operations

On March 1, 1978, the Special Coordination Committee (Counter-intelligence) agreed that the referenced memorandum should be superseded by new NSC guidance which would treat double agent operations as separate from national deception activities. National-level guidance governing double agent operations has been subsequently adopted by the SCC(CI). Staff elements of the SCC have studied the circumstances and problems concerning U.S. national deception operations. The principles of deception judiciously applied can be a vital element in the attainment of U.S. objectives. Based upon those recommendations, the President has determined that the following activities should be undertaken. (S)

1. Policy guidance, approval and annual review of all national deception will be provided by the Special Coordination Committee, composed of the Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs (Chairman), the Secretary of State, the Secretary of Defense, the Attorney General and the Director of Central Intelligence. Heads of other agencies will be in attendance when proposed activities coming under their purview are under review or when their assets or expertise can be used in support of national deception activities. The SCC shall have no approval authority under this memorandum as to any activities that require review or approval in accordance with other laws, executive orders or Presidential directives. (S)
2. A Special Working Group consisting of representatives of the Secretary of State, Secretary of Defense, Director of Central Intelligence, and Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff, plus augmentation by other

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agencies as required, will be established. The Special Working Group will be responsible for (a) developing procedures for the review and coordination of national deception concepts, plans and for providing proposed activities to the SCC for approval; and (b) making recommendations to the SCC on plans, proposals and concepts. (S)

3. There will be a Joint Secretariat established composed of one representative from the Secretary of Defense and one from the Director of Central Intelligence. The Joint Secretariat will be responsible for maintaining central records; receiving and reviewing all proposals, plans and concepts before submission to the Special Working Group; accomplishing necessary coordination; and recommending disposition to the Special Working Group. The Secretariat must bring each proposal, plan or concept received by it to the Special Working Group for action by the latter. The Secretariat will be responsible for establishing security procedures and maintaining security controls over all these matters. (S)
4. National deception proposals, plans or concepts may be developed by any Government department or agency; however, each must be forwarded to the Secretariat for the required review and approval in accordance with the procedures described above. (S)
5. Departments and agencies conducting authorized national deception operations will provide status reports on these activities to the Secretariat for annual review by the SCC. The first such report will be due on March 1, 1981. (C)
6. The National Security Council Intelligence Directive of August 15, 1950 entitled "Controlled Foreign Agents" is cancelled. In addition, in view of this statement of policy, the related Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs memorandum of July 6, 1976, subject: Revision of NSCID's, is also cancelled. (S)

Zbigniew Brzezinski

cc: The Attorney General.
Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation
Director, National Security Agency

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